LIBRARY

27 MAY 43

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

for

1943.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28917492

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Public Health Department,
London Road,
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Benfleet.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Fourteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1943.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, of the 15th February, 1944, this is intended to be an interim report and, on grounds of national security, as instructed in this Circular aforementioned, certain facts and figures must not be published.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

May, 1944.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,370
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Book	5,550 approx.
Rateable Value	£105,344
Sum represented by a penny rate	£395

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

England and Wales.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Live Births: 16.5 Still Births: 0.51 Deaths: 12.1

Rate per 1,000 live births:

Deaths under 1 year of age: 49

Benfleet U.D.C.

Live Births:	Total.	M.	F.
Total	254	137	117
Legitimate	237	126	111
Illegitimate	17	11	6
Still Births:			
Total	15	6	9
Legitimate	14	5	9
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Deaths:	252	122	130

When compared with the figures for 1942, the 1943 Birth Rate for the Benfleet Urban District shows an increase, whilst the 1943 Death Rate is also increased. The Comparability Factor is not available for either year, owing to war conditions.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes ..	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of infant deaths ..	12
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	47.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	-

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities, (b) Ambulance Facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. Approximately 95 per cent. of the dwelling houses and of the population in this district are supplied with water from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company. The supply is constant, sufficient in quantity and of high quality. Two samples of this water were taken during the year and submitted for examination. Both were highly satisfactory. A total of 5,461 dwelling houses were connected with the mains at December, 1943.

Of the 5 per cent. of the dwelling houses and population of this district not connected to the main water supply, the majority rely upon supplies from rainwater tanks. A few dwelling houses are supplied by shallow wells. No complaints of shortage of water were received during 1943, but owing to the small amount of rainfall during the summer and winter, the level of the water in many of the tanks and wells was far below average. Generally, the supply is sufficient in quantity and reasonable in quality. Two samples from private supplies were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. One was satisfactory and one was unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a well supplying four cottages. Remedial measures were taken.

Drainage. During the year four premises were connected to the Sewer, and extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of nine existing buildings.

Public Cleansing. This service functioned satisfactorily during the year. Efforts to salvage all materials of value to the war effort were intensified and the results compare satisfactorily with those of other districts of a similar character. 58 dustbins were sold to property owners.

Visits and Inspections. A total of 2,479 visits and inspections were made during the year.

Factories Act, 1937. 65 inspections were made and 3 defects were remedied after verbal notices.

Disinfection. 45 houses were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.

General. 173 complaints were received regarding the following matters:-

Subject.	No. of Complaints.
Lack of suitable dustbins	89
Housing defects.	38
Inadequate or defective drainage.	11
Miscellaneous.	10.
Obstructed ditches.	7.
Pollution of water supplies.	6.
Animals improperly kept.	5.
Infestation by bugs or fleas.	4.
Infestation by rats or mice.	3

Action taken.

Preliminary Notices served	139
Verbal Notices given	17
Advice given	3
Not within the purview of the Public Health Department	14
	173

4 Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act and 3 under the Housing Act were served.

1 notice was served on investigation after infectious disease.

Notices complied with.

	No.
Statutory Notices, Public Health Act	2
Statutory Notices, Housing Act.	2
Preliminary Notices.	124
Verbal Notices.	17
	145

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses. House-to-house inspections under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 were suspended in September, 1939, owing to other calls being made on the time of the Designated Officers, and to the difficulty owners would experience where extensive repairs would make demands on labour and material. In October, 1943, in accordance with the scheme outlined in Ministry of Health Circular 2871 a survey of the Housing needs of the district was commenced and by the end of the year work was in hand to render five vacant dwelling houses fit for human habitation. Nine Certificates of Essentiality were issued.

New Houses. No new houses were erected during the year.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At December, 1943, 6 farms used for the production of milk and 20 retail purveyors of milk were registered.

30 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination of which number 6 were unsatisfactory. Those farms at which the unsatisfactory samples were taken were given advice on the production of clean milk, and improvements were effected. Of the samples taken, 18 were of undesignated milk (4 unsatisfactory) and 12 of Accredited milk (2 unsatisfactory).

Structural alterations were carried out to two cowsheds during the year.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Dealer's Licences were issued as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested milk	6
Pasteurised milk	11

Meat and other foods. 439 visits were made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Hadleigh, and 6,703 carcases were inspected; of these 806 were cows, 381 of which were affected in some degree by tuberculosis. All meat found to be unfit for human consumption was suitably disposed of by the Ministry.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 216 visits were made to various food premises during the year and the following foods were surrendered by food traders as being unfit for human consumption:-

650 cans milk. 232 cans meat. 159 cans fruit. 69 cans fish. 45 cans vegetables. 39 cans soup. 30 cans jam. 384 eggs. 180 lbs. cheese. 108½lbs. bacon. 34lbs. cake. 26½lbs tea. 17 lbs. butter. 16lbs. margarine. 6½lbs. sugar. 1 tin dried milk (7 pints).

The usual sampling was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for the area.

The facts and figures shown under Sections C, D and E have been provided by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The bill of health of the District for 1943 is a very good one, and there are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of infectious diseases during the year. Particulars of all cases notified will be found in the table on page 7.

There was a slight increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever in the district as compared with other years. The increase was apparent at the most usual season of the year, namely, the autumn, and the ages affected were particularly children of school age, in the second five years of life, which is customary.

There was a slight undue prevalence of measles which was epidemic throughout the country.

Scabies. The clinic established at the First Aid Post was available at any time by appointment for the out-patient treatment of patients, in conjunction with the nursing staff of the Casualty Services, Civil Defence, attached to the Post, by arrangement with the Scheme-making Authority.

The treatment which is given on a "family unit" basis involves a bath and the use of 25 per cent. emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate as recommended in the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, 229/Med., revised June, 1942.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during the year, and the number of patients treated:-

	Adults.	5-15 yrs.	Under 5 yrs.	Total.
Notifications.				
Jan. - Dec. 43	48	51	20	119
Treatments:				
Mar. - Dec. 43	73	61	28	162*

* Of this number, 24 male persons were treated by the Sanitary Inspectors.

In addition, the following patients received in-patient hospital treatment:-

Adults.	5-15 yrs.	Under 5 yrs.	Total.
4	4	3	11

Venereal Diseases.

Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the local sanitary authority.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The scheme in this district is progressing satisfactorily, but the migratory nature of the population adds to the local difficulties.

The fact that there were only two confirmed notified cases of diphtheria during the year tended to cause parents of children to be more complacent in respect of accepting the offer of free immunisation, although the figures in respect of the 5-15 years group for this district are very satisfactory.

At the end of December, 1943, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as hereunder:-

Under 5 years.	5-15 years.
58.4%	93.4%

The one death from diphtheria during the year was complicated with pneumonia, and the patient had not been previously immunised.

Tuberculosis.

I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition. The majority of the cases come from the Greater London area, having already been notified, and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

During 1932, 28 cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary.	12	12	24
Non-Pulmonary.	2	2	4

It is regretted that during the year, there were eight deaths from tuberculosis:-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	5	2	7
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases included in Weekly Returns. At ages													Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.	Distribution			Sex.	
	All ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over.			Hadleigh	South Benfleet.	Thundersley.	M.	F.
Scarlet fever ..	54	-	2	2	2	4	38	5	-	-	-	1	-	21	-	17	20	17	31	23
Diphtheria ..	8 (6)	-	-	(1)	-	-	2 (1)	(1)	(1)	2 (1)	(1)	-	-	8 (6)	1	-	(1)	7 (5)	7 (5)	(1)
Acute Primary & Influenzal Pneumonia ..	20	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	4	1	4	4	2	-	11	1	8	8	12.
Erysipelas ..	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	3	2	-	3	4	4	5	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	186	11	12	6	23	22	97	12	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	47	71	68	91	95
Whooping Cough ..	19	1	4	-	3	3	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	2	4	9	10
Jaundice (as from Dec. 43)	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	2

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was unconfirmed.